

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 ACDA-12 SSM-03 MCE-00 /140 W
-----073684 102115Z /70

R 102011Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9874
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD INTERFUTURES PROJECT
REF: STATE 087650

1. WE HAVE MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL TO INTER-
FUTURES DIRECTOR LESOURNE AND DEPUTY SEC GEN ELDIN.
LESOURNE AGREED TO ALL POINTS WITH EXCEPTION THAT HE
FEELS THAT ADVISORY PANEL SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY (AT
ITS APRIL MEETING) TO DISCUSS CONCEPT OF A JOINT ADVIS-
ORY PANEL/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE A FIRM
DECISION IS TAKEN ON THIS QUESTION. LESOURNE SAID HE
PERSONALLY HAD NO OBJECTION TO A JOINT MEETING. HOW-
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EVER, ACCORDING TO LESOURNE, ADVISORY PANEL CHAIRMAN
RUFFOLO HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MIFFED BY WHAT HE IS SAID TO
SEE AS MANEUVERING BEHIND HIS BACK BY GYLLENHAMMAR
IN DIRECTLY ADDRESSING STEERING COMMITTEE REPS.
RUFFOLO DOES NOT CONSIDER GYLLENHAMMAR'S APPROACH TO
REFLECT VIEWS OF ALL PANEL MEMBERS AND WANTS TO PUT
QUESTION OF A JOINT MEETING TO PANEL AS A WHOLE.

MISSION REITERATED POSITION THAT ALL PANEL MEMBERS BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND JOINT MEETING AND URGED LESOURNE TO ENSURE THAT ADVISORY PANEL IS AWARE OF U.S. VIEWS ON THIS POINT.

2. LESOURNE FULLY ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF A CUT-OFF DATE FOR DECISION ON SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING. HIS VIEW WAS THAT A LATE JULY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD SERVE AS CUT-OFF POINT.

3. ELDIN ALSO AGREED WITH THRUST OF OUR APPROACH. HOWEVER, HIS CONCEPT OF FORM OF MINISTERIAL PRESENTATION ON INTERFUTURES DIFFERED SOMEWHAT FROM THAT PROPOSED REFTTEL. RATHER THAN A FORMAL ORAL REPORT (WHICH WOULD IMPLY A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM) ON INTERFUTURES, ELDIN INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR INCLUDING A BRIEF PAPER ON INTERFUTURES WHICH WOULD OUTLINE SOME OF PROJECT'S SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, STRESSING UTILITY OF THIS LONG-RANGE THINKING FOR THE OECD AND GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS. THIS PAPER WOULD BE INCLUDED AS BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBSTANTIVE MINISTERIAL AGENDA ITEMS. MINISTERS MIGHT REFER TO INTERFUTURES DURING DISCUSSION AND MIGHT COMMENT ON POLICY POINTS WHICH INTERFUTURES DOCUMENT -- AND PERHAPS OTHER DOCUMENTS -- WOULD RAISE. ELDIN FELT THIS KIND OF TREATMENT WOULD SERVE BETTER THAN A SEPARATE REPORT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENSURE THAT THERE WERE NO DETAILED DISCUSSION AND NO CONCRETE MINISTERIAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERFUTURES.

4. WE INDICATED THAT ONE PROBLEM WITH THE FORMULA ELDIN OUTLINED MIGHT BE THAT IT WOULD NOT GIVE INTERFUTURES ITSELF THE KIND OF VISIBILITY SOUGHT BY THE JAPANESE FOR POLITICAL EFFECT. ELDIN SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH FOREIGN OFFICE (REPEAT) FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY MINISTER MIYAZAKI, WHO TOLD HIM THAT JAPANESE WERE NOT SEEKING SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM BUT SIMPLY A PEG ON WHICH JAPANESE MINISTER COULD HANG A REFERENCE TO INTERFUTURES. ELDIN THOUGHT THERE MIGHT ALSO BE BRIEF MENTION OF INTERFUTURES IN MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE IN CONTEXT OF MORE GENERAL REFERENCE TO HEIGHTENED OECD ATTENTION TO LONGER RANGE ISSUES.

5. ELDIN ACCEPTED OUR POINT THAT INTERFUTURES SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND THIS YEAR. HE THOUGHT THERE

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WAS NEED, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP TO PROJECT.
INTERFUTURES DID NOT PLAN -- AND, INDEED, WOULD NOT BE
ABLE -- TO POLISH UP PAPERS PRODUCED FOR PHASES A-C
IN THE TIME REMAINING THIS YEAR. IN HIS VIEW, A NUM-
BER OF THESE PAPERS WERE VALUABLE AND SHOULD RECEIVE
FURTHER ATTENTION IN THE ORGANIZATION. MOREOVER,
PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PRODUCE
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST REQUIRING ADMINISTRATIVE FOLLOW-
UP BY THE OECD. WE POINTED OUT THAT ANY SUGGESTION
OF EXTENDING INTERFUTURES COULD LEAD TO FURTHER DELAYS
IN PRODUCTION OF INTERFUTURES WORK. ELDIN AGREED ON
THIS POINT. HE ALSO AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT
QUESTIONS OF WRAP-UP AND FOLLOW-ON TO INTERFUTURES
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SHOULD BE KEPT CLEARLY SEPARATE FROM ISSUE OF EXTENDING PROJECT ITSELF.

6. COMMENT: IN MISSION'S VIEW, WE SHOULD LET JAPANESE TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING PRECISE HANDLING OF INTER-FUTURES AT MINISTERIAL, PROVIDED OUR OBJECTIVE OF BRIEF TREATMENT WITH NO RECOMMENDATIONS IS MET. IF THIS IS SATISFACTORY TO JAPANESE, HOWEVER, WE SEE CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN ELDIN'S PROPOSED PROCEDURE. AN ORAL REPORT WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE A SEPARATE AGENDA NOTATION AND COULD LEAD TO MORE DISCUSSION OF INTER-FUTURES THAN WE WOULD WISH. STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD, OF COURSE, APPROVE ALL REFERENCES TO THE PROJECT.

7. WHILE WE DID NOT SAY SO TO ELDIN, WE AGREE THAT OECD FOLLOW-UP TO (AS OPPOSED TO EXTENSION OF) INTER-FUTURES IS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT AN EARLY DATE.
SALZMAN

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